

WATER USE EFFICIENCY

The CALFED Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program is one of the cornerstones of CALFED's water management strategy. The WUE Program is unique nationally in its magnitude and its aggressive approach to water management. Elements of the WUE Program include agricultural, urban, water recycling, and managed refuges. The WUE Program is based on the recognition that although efficiency measures are implemented locally and regionally, the benefits accrue at local, regional, and statewide levels. The WUE Program has met all of its first year commitments. Accomplishments completed this year include:

- Awarded over \$900,000 to local urban and agricultural agencies for seven water use efficiency pilot projects.
- Made significant progress on establishing quantifiable objectives for agricultural water use efficiency programs and on developing a certification process for Best Management Practices in urban areas.
- Developed a grant program to allocate CALFED funds to local agencies for water use efficiency programs in 2001.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: The goal of the WUE Program is to develop a set of programs and assurances that contribute to CALFED goals and objectives, have broad stakeholder acceptance, foster efficient water use, and help support a sustainable economy and ecosystem.

Objectives of the WUE Program are:

- Build on existing water management programs.
- Reduce existing irrecoverable losses.
- Achieve multiple benefits.
- Preserve local flexibility.
- Use incentive-based actions over regulatory actions.
- Provide assurance of high water use efficiency.

The WUE implementation strategy is to provide tools to local water suppliers and water users to improve water use efficiency. These tools include financial and technical assistance, research, and development of detailed milestones to assure Program goals will be met.

CALFED agencies will provide funding for low-interest loans through a revolving fund to help water suppliers overcome financial barriers to implementing locally cost-effective practices. Financial incentives in the form of grants or cooperative agreements also will be used to motivate water suppliers and users